

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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Democratic Caucus

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CARLENE BOTTORFF SWORN IN AS 71ST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

INDIANAPOLIS – Carlene Bottorff of Jeffersonville was sworn in today as 71st District representative in the Indiana House during ceremonies at the Statehouse as lawmakers resumed the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Bottorff, who succeeds her late husband James as representative of a district in southern Indiana that includes the communities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville and Utica, received the oath of office from Indiana Supreme Court Justice Frank Sullivan. Jim Bottorff, who had represented the 71st District since 1990, died from cancer in early December.

"I am deeply honored that I have been chosen to fill the seat vacated by my husband, and I pledge to the people of the 71st District that I will do everything in my power to live up to his record of service to those who live and work in southern Indiana," Carlene Bottorff said after being sworn in.

Bottorff, 57, retired from the United States Census Bureau in July 2005, after 38 years of service. During that time, she oversaw the collection of data and supervised call centers in four locations across the country. She has served with the Clark-Floyd Convention and Tourism Bureau, the Jeffersonville Human Relations Commission, and worked on a committee created by former Gov. Evan Bayh to study the state's school funding formula.

"Through my work with the Census Bureau, I have gained insights into the needs of the people who live in this area," Bottorff said. "You have the opportunity to see what can be improved to help in such areas as transportation, housing, utilities and the local economy. With these ideas in mind, I will be supporting legislation that helps put more people to work, reduces their tax burden, provides access to affordable health care, and enables their children to receive an education that prepares them for the challenges of a changing world economy. I look forward to these challenges." House Democrat Leader B. Patrick Bauer from South Bend said Bottorff will serve on three standing House committees during the 2006 session: Agriculture and Rural Development; Natural Resources; and Utilities and Energy.

Bauer praised Bottorff for her history of community service, noting, "Anyone who has devoted her career toward improving the lives of those around her will be an immediate asset to the Indiana General Assembly, and we look forward to taking advantage of Carlene Bottorff's background and experience in helping enact strong public policies."

"My husband always enjoyed meeting the people of the 71st District, getting the chance to hear their concerns and answering their questions about the major issues before the Legislature, and I look forward to doing the same," Bottorff said. "If you want to talk about anything at the Statehouse, if you need some help untangling bureaucratic red tape, or if your children are interested in serving as pages during session, please don't hesitate to contact me."

To reach Bottorff during the 2006 session, you can contact her by calling the toll-free Statehouse telephone number of 1-800-382-9842, e-mailing her through her Internet Web site at www.IN.gov/H71 or writing to her at:

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